

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 IO-13

LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, JA
SUBJECT: GOJ REACTION TO US VIEWS ON UNCTAD COMMODITY CON-
SULTATIONS

REF: A) STATE 208183 B) STATE 197486

SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED: GOJ OFFICIALS ARE PESSIMISTIC
RE LIKELIHOOD OF DC'S BEING ABLE TO ASSERT THEIR VIEWS EF-
FECTIVELY IN G-77 DOMINATED AD HOC COMMITTEE AND, UNLIKE
USG, VIEW COCOA TALKS AS A SCENARIO WHICH MAY BE PREFER-
ABLE TO CONFRONTATION WITH LDC'S OVER PROCEDURAL ISSUES
IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. THEY REQUESTED FURTHER INFORMA-
TION ON US STRATEGY FOR OCTOBER TDB MEETING WHICH WILL
DECIDE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. GOJ
ALSO ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT USG INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN
SEPTEMBER COPPER MEETING AND TO HOLD CONSUMER CONSULTATIONS
PRIOR TO IT. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER PROVIDING GOJ A MEMORANDUM ON AUGUST 24
SUMMARIZING USG VIEWS, AS DESCRIBED REF A, EMBOFF
DISCUSSED UNCTAD COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS ON AUGUST
25 WITH YOKOTA AND HIDA OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
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AFFAIRS DIVISION, MITI, AND ON AUGUST 26 WITH TANAKA,

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION, UN BUREAU, AND EBIHARA, FIRST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU, FONOFF. THE FONOFF OFFICIALS NOTED THAT AT ITS OCTOBER MEETING THE UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB) WILL DECIDE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATING GROUP FOR THE COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS. THUS, THEY OBSERVED, IF THE US ENVISAGES THIS AD HOC COMMITTEE BECOMING THE KEY FORUM IN WHICH THE DC'S WILL ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE UNCTAD DECISIONS ON COMMODITY ISSUES, PREPARATIONS FOR THE TDB MEETING WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT. THEY REQUESTED FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE POSITION AND STRATEGY THE USG PROPOSES FOR THE TDB MEETING.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH MINISTRIES WERE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES OF DC'S ACHIEVING ANY OF THE OBJECTIVES DESCRIBED IN PARA 1 REFTEL THROUGH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL BE DOMINATED BY G-77. ATTEMPTS BY DC'S TO USE THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO RESTRICT PARTICIPATION IN AND THE SCOPE OF CONSULTATIONS ON INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES WILL, IF ANYTHING, THEY SUGGESTED, PROVOKE A POLITICAL REACTION IN OPPOSITION FROM G-77. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY BELIEVE, SOME OF THE SAME GOALS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH NATURAL ATTRITION WITHIN THE COMMODITY GROUPS AS COUNTRIES WITH NO DIRECT INTEREST DROP OUT. OFFICIALS OF BOTH MINISTRIES WERE PUZZLED WHY US SEES ANY HARM IN CONSULTATIONS FOLLOWING A COURSE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE COCOA NEGOTIATIONS (SEE REF A PARA 12).

3. CONCERNING THE USE OF EXISTING COMMODITY GROUPS, GOJ REPS SAID THEY AGREE WITH US POSITION BUT COULD PROVIDE ONLY PRELIMINARY AND PASSIVE SUPPORT FOR IT BECAUSE JAPAN DID NOT RESERVE ON RESOLUTION 93 AT NAIROBI WHICH SPECIFICALLY APPROVES UNCTAD-SPONSORED CONSULTATIONS ON ALL 18 COMMODITIES EXCEPT FOR THOSE UNDER AGREEMENT.

4. GOJ OFFICIALS SAID THEY ASSUMED THAT USG HAD MADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIRM DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN SEPTEMBER GENEVA COPPER MEETING REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF DEMARCHE TO UNCTAD SECRETARY GENERAL. THEY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN US-SUGGESTED CONSULTATIONS AMONG COPPER CONSUMERS (REF. B) DURING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20-24 (FOLLOWING OECD HLG ON COMMODITIES) AND WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF PLANS FOR THIS MEETING. (ON AUGUST 31 GOJ FORMALLY DECIDED TO SEND A DELEGATION TO

SEPTEMBER UNCTAD COPPER CONSULTATIONS.)

5. ABOVE VIEWS ARE PRELIMINARY. CONSULTATIONS WITHIN
GOJ WILL INCLUDE FONOFF, MITI, FINMIN, EPA AND AGRI,
AND HAVE BEGUN ONLY THIS MONTH. MITI, ACCORDING TO
YOKOTA, WILL HOLD A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER
WITH INDUSTRIES LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY THE UNCTAD
COMMODITY SCHEME AND WILL NOT HAVE A POLICY UNTIL
LATE OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER.
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